

Disk Jockey makes DOS easy

DOS, or the Disk Operating System that's used by IBM-compatible personal computers, is a wealth of power and capability. But it's shrouded by a heavy layer of complicated commands and isn't as useful as it could be.

Disk Jockey, a new program from Revolution Software Inc., adds a wealth of capabilities to this lumbering giant.

Among Disk Jockey's most helpful features:

■ "Search" and "Findfile" help you find files when you've forgotten all the file names. For instance, Search will find a file that contains a certain phrase or word. Alternately, if you know the file name but you still can't find it, Findfile lists each directory it might be found in.

■ "Encrypt" secures your files with a password, so you can keep sensitive information confidential. This is especially helpful if legal documents or other proprietary information are stored on a computer that's used by many people in



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your organization.

■ "Protect" is similar to "Encrypt" but with a twist. It lets you hide a file so only you can find it, so that others won't even see the file name in the directory.

The downside is that you have to remember how to retrieve it! "Protect" also lets you make a file "read only," so that it's accessible by anyone, but only you can change it.

■ "Find-Dupe" locates all the duplicate files on a hard disk — an invaluable command for quick and safe housekeeping, especially for those who habitually make multiple backups, just to be safe.

■ "Dirsort" overcomes DOS's complicated commands when you want to locate a group of files that have similar names. This com-

mand will let you sort and call up files by their first names, extensions, sizes or dates.

■ "Reorg" is a disk optimizer that consolidates file fragments into whole files on your hard disk. File fragments are created automatically and invisibly by the operating system whenever a file is too big to save in the next available contiguous space on the disk. After a while, your disk could have thousands of file fragments, which could slow down your system dramatically. The manufacturer claims that your computer's performance could be enhanced by as much as 50 percent by using this program.

Disk Jockey isn't the only program of its type on the market. Other programs perform one or two of these functions, and do them more easily.

The Search function is one that's marketed elsewhere, most notably under the title GOfier. Even WordPerfect has a search command that will locate a file if you give it a

word or phrase to find, but it only searches WordPerfect documents. I tested all three of these search programs by running each through a standard set of files, and I found that they all worked equally quickly and equally well.

However, Disk Jockey — available for \$59.95 from Revolution Software, 4 Century Drive, Parsippany, N.J. 07054, (201) 455-0995 — provides more handy commands of this type in one package.

■ The bottom line: The features offered by Disk Jockey are some of those little extra touches that make using a personal computer easier, especially if you have lots of files. I wholeheartedly recommend this program, particularly for someone who is coordinating the personal computer function for a company.

Hillel Segal's column evaluates gadgets, seminars and books designed to enhance business productivity. Segal is a management consultant based in Boulder.